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Patterson bill protects consumers from predatory practices

LANSING –Michigan consumers will be protected from unfair telecommunications practices after an extension was given to the Michigan Public Service Commission to continue its consumer protection rules, announced Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton.

Senate Bill 551, sponsored by Patterson, restores the authority of the MPSC to make the protection rules. Authority had been set to expire July 1.

“I am pleased this legislation received unanimous, bi-partisan support, as it is in the best interests of consumers,” said Patterson, chairman of the Senate Technology and Energy Committee. “We need to protect them from such unfair practices as ‘slamming and cramming’.”

It was believed that termination of this authority also would make void the rules previously made for protection of Michigan consumers of telecom services.

MPSC Commissioner Robert Nelson commended Patterson and the committee for prompt action and said the MPSC needed more time to finish new service quality rules than a June 30 deadline would permit. These rules spell out specific protections for consumers. Nelson stated the updated rules would be in place by year’s end.

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